

WELCOME

Community Impact Assessment: Getting Started

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We get this.



CIA Philosophy



My operating philosophy



What is Community Impact Assessment?

“...a process to evaluate the effects of a transportation action on a community and its quality of life.”



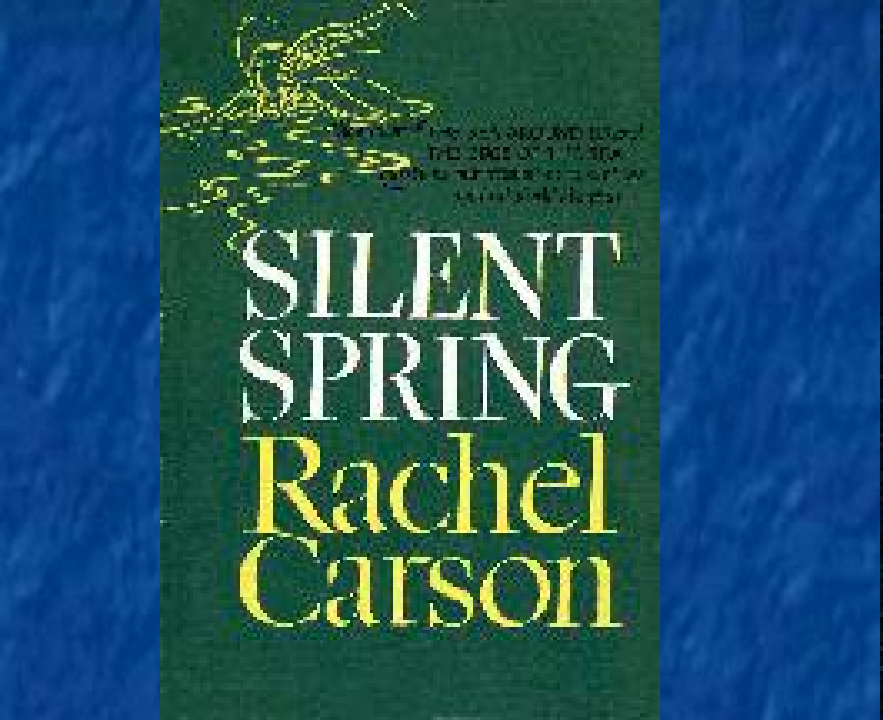
CIA Involves...

- Early identification of community needs and issues
- Collaborative problem solving



So, tell me again how we got here?





The cover of the book 'Silent Spring' by Rachel Carson features a dark green background with a white illustration of a bird in flight at the top. The title 'SILENT SPRING' is in large, white, serif capital letters, and the author's name 'Rachel Carson' is in a smaller, white, serif font below it.

SILENT SPRING

Rachel
Carson



NEPA (1969)

- Declare National Policy
- Environmental ethic
 - Systematic and interdisciplinary approach
- EIS/ Decision-making framework
 - Addressed social, economic, and environmental impacts
- CEQ

Scope, Inform, Consult, Share

Council on Environmental (CEQ) Quality Regulations

- Provide public notice of hearings, meetings, and proposed actions (projects)
- Sponsor public hearings & meetings in accordance with applicable agency requirements
- Make environmental impact statements & other materials available to the public

Federal Aid Highway Act 1970

- Section 109 (h)

- Air, noise, water pollution
- Impacts on built environment
- Aesthetic values
- Growth & local plans
- Community cohesion
- Available facilities and services
- Displacement
- Tax base & employment

Environmental Injustice in Site Selection of Hazardous Waste Facilities



- United Church of Christ Report, 1987

- Protests in Warren County NC, are impetus for General Accounting Office (GAO) Report, 1983

"THINKING BEYOND THE PAVEMENT"

"This conference will help be remembered as the one that reshaped our ideas of how we design our facilities..."

—Erica Jeff, Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration



"I challenge you to help define a process which will lead to excellence, which produces a product that is carefully, imaginatively designed, serves traffic demand, provides safety for our customers, respects the natural and man-made environment, is viewed as an asset to those who use it, and whose design has the input of professionals and customers alike."

—Peter J. Williams, Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration

"Have the confidence to use flexible design—push yourself beyond what you think is great—there is something better out there. You have a role in only today—you're making a big impact wherever you go."

—Susan Vosses Torres, The SHAN/SHO Coalitions/Highways Tennessee, Knoxville, KY



"Aesthetic, community-sensitive design is where our culture starts to go and we should go with it."

—Frances S. Frosch, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

THINKING BEYOND THE PAVEMENT



A National Workshop on Integrating Highway Development with Communities and the Environment while Maintaining Safety and Performance.

Hosted at the University of Maryland Graduate Center in May of 1995, Thinking Beyond the Pavement provided a landmark opportunity for 200 invited participants from 30 states and the District of Columbia to develop a nation of excellence in highway design for the 21st Century. Participants included chief engineers, senior engineers and planners from 20 state departments of transportation, representatives of national transportation organizations, and a variety of stakeholders from government, the private sector, and citizens' organizations.



Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Policy Statement 1994

A Framework to Strengthen the Linkage Between Environmental and Highway Policy

Flexibility in Highway Design



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



A \$350,000 bridge could have spanned this creek and met all AASHTO criteria. Why spend more?

Consider the context...



Yosemite National Park - Half Dome

ISTEA and TEA-21

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and Transportation Equity Act for the 21st. Century

- Addressing Community
 - Early and continuing public involvement
 - Transportation Enhancements
 - Livable Communities Initiative



So, What's New?

- Not different from how business should always be conducted
- No new regulatory requirements
 - Voluntary action that more effectively meets the intent of existing laws
- Growing awareness of CIA's utility and benefits

Relationship to NEPA Process

- **Class of action determination**
 - Information on community impacts is useful for determining project categories
- **Environmental document**
 - Data from CIA flows into document
- **Aids the Decision-Making process**
 - CIA's critical thinking/analysis provides data and context

The Assessment Process

Define Project and Study Area



Develop Community Profile



Analyze Impacts



Identify Solutions



Avoid
Mitigate
Minimize
Enhance



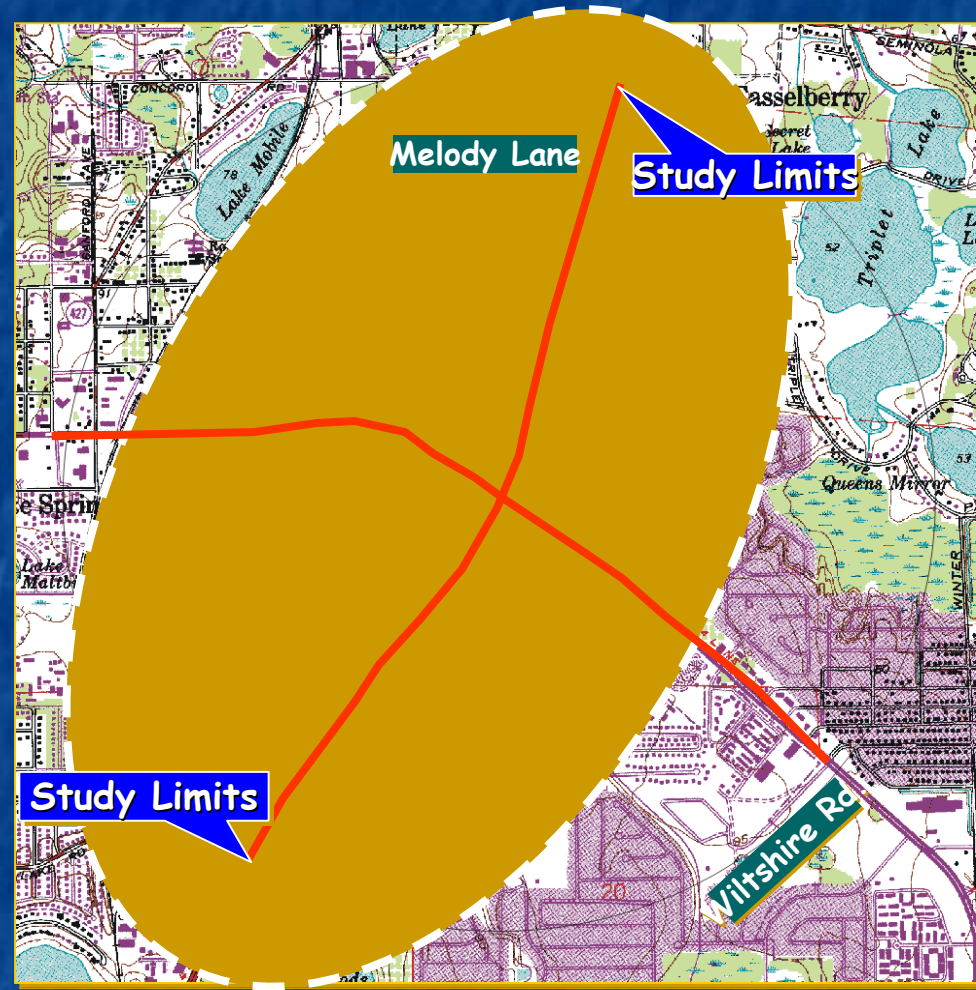
Document Findings



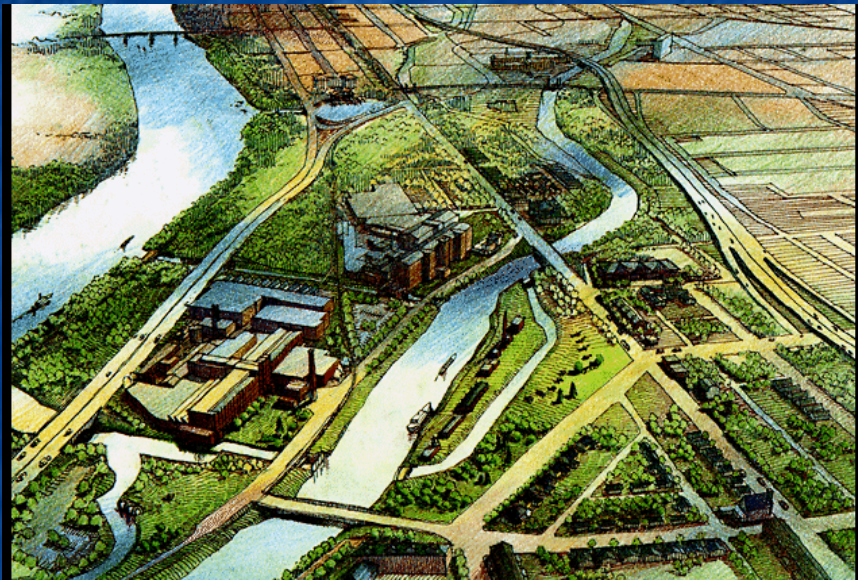
Use Public Involvement

Define Project and Study Area

- Physical location of project alternatives
- Broader “impact area”
 - generally the area surrounding project alternatives
 - varies by type of analysis
 - based on logical cutoff points



Develop a Community Profile

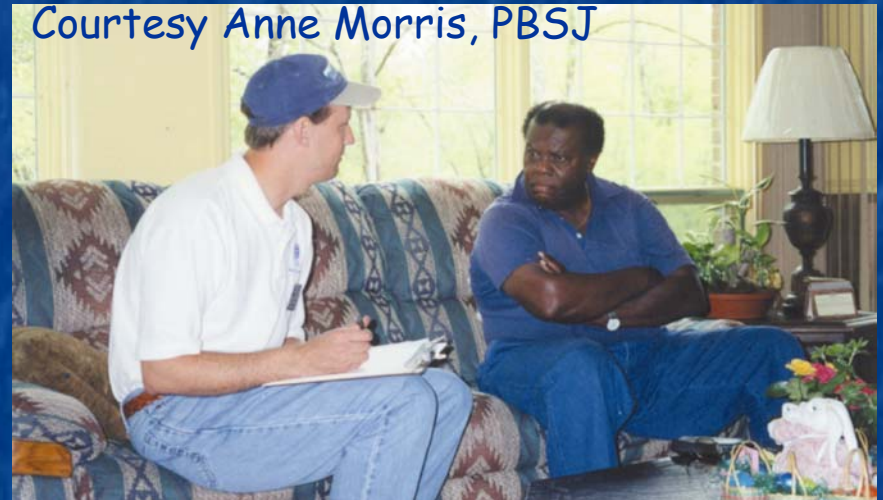


- REVIEW SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS
- IDENTIFY COMMUNITY ISSUES & ATTITUDES
- INVENTORY STUDY AREA FEATURES

Analyze Impacts

- Context
- Intensity/Severity
- Cumulative
- Direct
- Indirect or Secondary

Courtesy Anne Morris, PBSJ



General Categories:

- Community cohesion
- Community facilities & services
- Mobility/accessibility
- Safety
- Economic
- Land use
- Aesthetic
- Relocation
- Civil Rights

CIA Asks the Following Types of Questions

Safety

- How will project alternatives affect:
 - Crime?
 - Emergency services?
 - Vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian safety?
 - Children; elderly; disabled ?



Business Impacts



- Will there be any changes in:
 - Business activity?
 - Available parking and land?
 - Commercial land value?
 - Employment?



Residential Impacts

- What happens to
 - Residential property value?
 - Availability of goods and services?
 - Social/familial interaction?



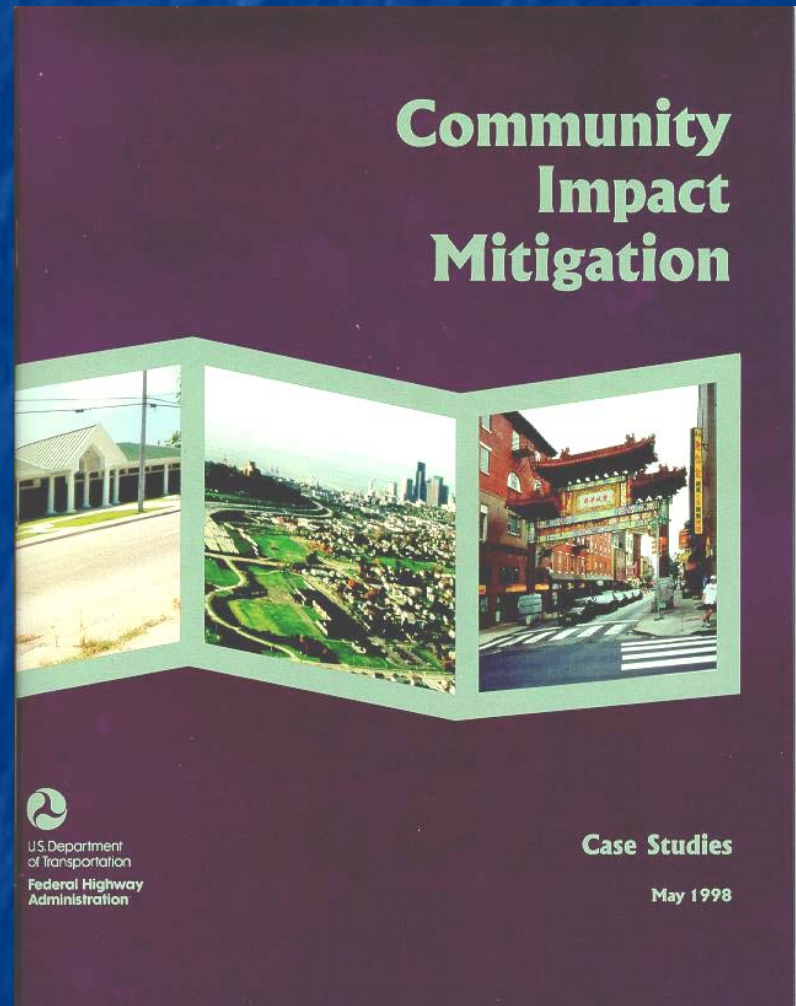
Land Use Impacts

- Will there be:
 - Removal of existing land uses or community resources
 - Encroachment on existing uses or community resources
 - Changes in the overall development pattern or rate of growth in an area over time?



Identify Solutions

- Avoid
- Minimize
- Compensate
- Enhance



Document Findings



- Prepare a CIA report appropriate to the level of work and class of action
- Keep supporting information in the project file
- Summary information into the environmental document.

The Assessment Process

Define Project and Study Area



Develop Community Profile



Analyze Impacts



Identify Solutions



Avoid
Mitigate
Minimize
Enhance



Document Findings



Use Public Involvement

CIA and Public Involvement

- Public involvement is a tool for CIA:
 - Identifying potentially affected groups
 - Determining community issues and attitudes
 - Identifying impacts perceived as significant

And then . . .

- Think critically
- Communicate frequently
- Plan sensitively
- Problem-solve flexibly
- Work openly
- Decide Responsively